

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR VE DA

SUBJ: VISIT TO VENEZUELA BY DANISH PRIME MINISTER

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING A FOUR-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO VENEZUELA, DANISH PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PARIS CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND CALLED FOR CLOSER BILATERAL TIES WITH VENEZUELA. ALTHOUGH THE VISIT PRODUCED NO SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS, IT DID SERVE TO STRENGTHEN CONTACTS BETWEEN DANISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND VENEZUELAN ACCION DECOCRATICA PARTY.
END SUMMARY

1. PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN VISITED VENEZUELA FROM NOV 4

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TO NOV7. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, NINE GOVERNMENT

OFFICIALS AND FIVE DANISH NEWSMEN. DURING HIS STAY, HE MET WITH VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MINES AND HYDROCARBONS, THE HEAD OF THE RULING ACCION DEMOCRATICA (AD) PARTY, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE FOREIGN TRADE INSTITUTE. JORGENSEN ALSO CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE VENEZUELAN WORKERS CONFEDERATION (CTV), THE LARGEST LABOR UNION IN THE COUNTRY.

2. JORGENSEN'S VISIT WAS MARRED BY A VIGOROUS VENEZUELAN PROTEST AGAINST DANISH GOVERNMENT'S SUBSIDIZATION OF THE FILM, "THE SEXUAL LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST." WHEN JORGENSEN ARRIVED AT CTV HEADQUARTERS, CTV PRESIDENT JOSE VARGAS PRESENTED TO HIM A PETITION SIGNED BY A BLUE-RIBBON LIST OF SIXTY PROMINENT VENEZUELAN OF ALL POLITICAL PERSUASIONS, CONDEMNING THE FILM AND ASKING JORGENSEN TO WITHDRAW THE SUBSIDIES AND DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO STOP PRODUCTION OF THE FILM.

3. JORGENSEN APPEARED TO HAVE BETTER LUCK WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ THAN WITH THE CTV. THE DANISH AMBASSADOR TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT JORGENSEN AND PEREZ QUICKLY ESTABLISHED GOOD RAPPORT. IN COMMENTS TO THE PRESS DURING HIS VISIT, JORGENSEN EMPHASIZED THE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE WHICH THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA ARE PLAYING IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND THE NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT INCREASINGLY THE INTERESTS OF THE THIRD WORLD. HE ALSO CHARACTERIZED THE AD PARTY IN VENEZUELA AS HAVING MUCH IN COMMON WITH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN DENMARK.

4. AT THE END OF THE VISIT, PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN AND PRESIDENT PEREZ ISSUED A JOINT COMMUNIQUE CALLING FOR A STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND PLEDGING TO WORK TOWARDS SPECIFIC RESULTS AT THE FORTHCOMING PARIS CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION. THE COMMUNIQUE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF CLOSER TIES BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND DENMARK IN THE ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL FIELDS AND CALLED FOR COOPERATION SPECIFICALLY IN FERTILIZERS, LIGHT AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES, INCLUDING NAVAL CONSTRUCTION,

AND THE PROCESSING OF FARM PRODUCTS.

5. COMMENT: TO THE EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, JORGENSEN'S VISIT DID NOT PRODUCE ANY SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS. COMING IN THE SAME YEAR AS VISITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HERE BY SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER PALME AND FORMER GERMAN CHANCELLOR BRANDT, JORGENSEN'S VISIT IS ANOTHER INDICATION THAT EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS CONSIDER VENEZUELA'S AD PARTY AS PART OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT. JORGENSEN'S CALL ON THE CTV WAS UNUSUAL FOR A VISITING HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, BUT MAY REFLECT THE PRIME MINISTER'S TRADE UNION BACKGROUND AND THE APPARENTLY GROWING INTEREST OF NORDIC TRADE UNIONS IN LATIN AMERICAN TRADE UNION DEVELOPMENTS (COPENHAGEN 3262).

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